Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01836 011202Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /074 W

-----011210Z 021155 /43

R 011131Z JUN 77 FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4520 INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 1836

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, SU, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR LEAVING?

- 1. KHARTOUM BUZZING WITH RUMORS REGARDING IMMINENT DEPARTURE SOVIET AMBASSADOR FEDOTOV. HOWEVER, NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR PRECISELY WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HIM. VOA AND OTHER REPORTS THAT HE BEING RECALLED BY MOSCOW HAVE BEEN HEARD HERE AND ARE BASIS FOR MOST RUMORS. IN ADDITION, WE ARE AWARE THAT FAREWELL PARTIES IN HIS HONOR HAVE RECENTLY BEEN GIVEN AND HE WAS SEEN AT FOREIGN MINISTRY EVENING MAY 31. AS OF NOON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO PUBLIC STATEMENT BY SUDANGOV OVER RADIO OMDURMAN OR IN OTHER MEDIA.
- 2. EMBOFF DURING CALL JUNE 1 ON OTHER SUBJECT WITH SENIOR SUDANGOV OFFICIAL ASKED ABOUT FEDOTOV'S STATUS. OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD BE LEAVING SOON, BUT HE SAID SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN RECALLED. RATHER, HE IS GOING HOME FOR CONSULTATIONS, AND SUDANESE OFFICIAL THOUGHT IT WAS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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CONNECTION WITH FAHMY-GROMYKO MEETING.

3. MEANWHILE, SOVIETS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO REDUCE SIZE OF THEIR EMBASSY HERE. WE UNDERSTAND TOTAL EMBASSY STAFF IS PRESENTLY ABOUT 60, DOWN FROM PREVIOUS HIGH OF ABOUT 100. WE HAVE LEARNED HOWEVER THAT SUDANGOV WANTS SOVIET EMBASSY ULTIMATELY

TO BE REDUCED TO 12 DIPLOMATS AND 12 NON-DIPLOMATS. THESE EMBASSY REDUCTIONS ARE SEPARATE FROM THOSE INVOLVING SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL IN SUDAN.

4. COMMENT: THE SOVIETS, FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, HAVE HAD SUFFICIENT REASON TO RECALL AMBASSADOR FEDOTOV. WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THEY CHARACTERIZE HIS EXPECTED DEPARTURE FROM KHARTOUM. UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS IT WOULD BE LIKELY THAT HE WOULD BE LEAVING KHARTOUM NOW ON SUMMER VACATION. WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE RELATIVELY BANAL NOTE FROM SOVIET EMBASSY IN NEXT FEW DAYS SAYING THAT FEDOTOV HAS LEFT KHARTOUM FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD WITHOUT INDICATING THAT HE HAS, IN FACT, BEEN RECALLED. BOGOSIAN

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Message Attributes

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Subject: SOVIET AMBASSADOR LEAVING? TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, SU, UR, (FEDOTOV)

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